[श्री सुरेश पंचौरी]

मुझे आशा है कि केंद्रीय सरकार जल्द-से-जल्द उपरोक्त बिंदुओं को ध्यान में रखकर होप्स उत्पादकों की बेहतरी के लिए ठोस कदम उठाएगी । धन्यवाद ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I adjourn the House for lunch till 2.45 p.m.

The House then adjourn for lunch at forty-five minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at forty-eight minutet past two of the clock,

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) in the Chair.

RE: REVIEW OF FUNCTIONS OF R.B.I BY A PRIVATE FIRM— Contd.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, I have a point to make. In the morning, you were also present when the House had demanded that there should be a statement from the Finance Minister on the news item that has appeared saying that the Reserve Bank of India is going to engage an agency to study its own role. Everybody had agreed and the Leader of the House had promised that he would convey our feelings... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He may have conveyed your feelings.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: But still now we have not been informed about when he will do it. Secondly, Sir, I am told that the Prime Minister is making a statement on the Madhavan affair in the other House. Therefore, we feel totally discriminated against. The Prime Minister has not spoken in this House about the Madhavan affair nor do we know anything about the reaction of the Finance Minister on the suggestion we made that he should make a statement in the House. I draw your attention may be I am speaking for the entire House as the Presiding Officer, you are responsible to protect our dignity. I request you to kindly direct the Finance Minister to come to the House and reply to the points that the Members have raised on the role of the Reserve Bank of India's Governor in engaging an agency to evaluate the function of the Reserve Bank of India.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): The Finance Minister himself is in clique with the ..Governor of the Reserve Bank of and tht CMD of SBI. *(Inttrruptions)* Therefore, what can we except from him? I want the Prime Minister... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Please listen to Mr. Jacob... *(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): I want to put the record straight. Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta was telling that the Prime Minister is making a statement in the other House. The Prime Minister is in the midst of a discussion there. He might have interrened... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI Jagesh Desai): Yes, I know, I know ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What about the Finance Minister? Let him react... *(Interruptions)*..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): About that, the Leader of the House had said that he would convey the Members' feelings to the Finance Minister... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: But what is the reaction? I request you to urge upon the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs to convey our feelings once again and let the Minister come back to the House. Can you ask him, Sir?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He has already ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I don't know whether he has heard it or he is hearing something else.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The Leader of the House had assured that he would convey. Let us wait for that.

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala): Sir, the point is, if the Finance Minister can clarify the situaton then we will be knowing things much better from hs statement. It is good both for the Government and for the House.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: I agree that I will convey it to the Finance Minister.

THE BHOPAL GAS LEAK DISASTER PROCESSING OF CLAIMS) AMENDMENT BILL, 1992

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): Sir, I move:

> "That the Bill to amend the Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster (Processing of Claims) Act, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bhopal disaster is one of the worst disasters of the whole world. It took place in December, 1984. It occurred because of the leakage of Methyl Isocyanite gas from that factory. So many people died and so many people have become disabled. Immediately, after that tragedy, the Government took a lot of steps to give relief measures both medically and financially. After that, in 1985, we brought in a Bill which became an Act after a thorough discussion in both the Houses. After that, in 1990, some relief measures were taken by the Government of India and Rs. 200 per victim per month has been given since them. After that, there was a prolonged battle in different courts. Finally, the Supreme Court gave its verdict in the month of November, 1991 and they gave four months for the Government to come out with some guidelines and to start the adjudication process. The Government has given powers to the welfare commissioner who is a sitting Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court. He started the adjudication process in time. After that, we received a number of complaints about the delay in the disbursement of compensation funds. And the people felt that more powers should be given to the Welfare Commissioner. Then the Government felt that the hands of the Welfare Commissioner should be strengthened. And that is the objective of the Bill, that is, to give more powers to the Welfare Commissioner, to give more judicial powers, to make him more independent and to enable him to take his own decision on his part. That is why we are introducing the Bill. I beg the House, through you Sir, to take the Bill into consideraion.

The question was proposed. ..

श्री नारायण प्रसाद गुप्ता (मध्यप्रदेश) : सम्मानीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय सर्वप्रथम मैं आपका धन्यवाद करना चाहता हूं कि आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया। महोदय आज जिस विषय पर मैं चर्चा करना चाहता हूं वह अत्यन्त गम्भीर घटना है। भोपाल गैस डिसास्टर औद्योगिक इतिहास की सबसे बडी दुखद घटना है, जिसमें चार हजार से पांच हजार तक लोग मारे गए हैं और इससे भोपाल शहर के छह लाख लोग और आसपास आने वाले करीब-करीब सौ गांव इससे प्रभावित हुए हैं।

महोदय यह जितनी बड़ी घटना है, उससे हम आशा करते थे कि इसको उतनी ही गंभीरता से लिया जाएगा, लेकिन आपके द्वारा पूरे सदन तक मैं यह विनम्र अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं, अपनी पीड़ा को बताना चाहता हूं कि दुर्भाग्य से भोपाल गैस ट्रेजडी को उतनी